

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

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P 271809Z APR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 101698

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, CA

SUBJECT: ROC - CANADIAN URANIUM SUPPLY

REF: TAIPEI 2484

1. WE BELIEVE TAIPOWER AND/OR GULF (CANADA) PROBABLY
HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD REASON GOC EXPECTED TO REFUSE ISSUE
EXPORT PERMIT FOR NATURAL URANIUM WHICH, AFTER U.S.
ENRICHMENT, WOULD BE USED TO FUEL TAIPOWER REACTORS. IT

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IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT UNDER PRESENT POLICY GOC IS

PREPARED TO SUPPLY NATURAL URANIUM ONLY TO THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHOM IT HAS BILATERAL SAFEGUARDS AND CONTROLS AGREEMENTS. PREVIOUSLY, GOC HAD BEEN WILLING TO RELY ON SAFEGUARDS OTHERWISE OBTAINED FOR SUCH SUPPLY (E.G., UNDER THE U.S.-ROC AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION AS RESULT OF ENRICHMENT IN U.S.) BUT, IN AFTERMATH INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE TEST, NOW REQUIRES A DIRECT, BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT, EVEN IN CASE OF SUPPLY FOR USE BY U.S. UTILITIES. WE PLAN TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH GOC OFFICIALS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. FOR OTTAWA - AS INDICATED ABOVE, WE WOULD LIKE TO HOLD WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF FUTURE NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS

IN ROC AT AN EARLY DATE. (THIS POSSIBILITY ALREADY HAS BEEN MENTIONED TO NUTTING OF CANADIAN EMBASSY.) PLEASE EXPRESS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL DEPARTMENT'S PREFERENCE FOR PRIOR CONSULTATIONS (EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH EMBASSIES) BEFORE USG AND GOC TAKE FURTHER ACTION ON THIS MATTER. IN ANY EVENT, IN THE MEANTIME, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE THAT ANY STATEMENT WHICH GOC MIGHT CONSIDER NECESSARY USE RATIONALE ALONG ABOVE LINES, RATHER THAN QUESTIONING ADEQUACY OF SAFEGUARDS IN ROC PER SE. SISCO

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